



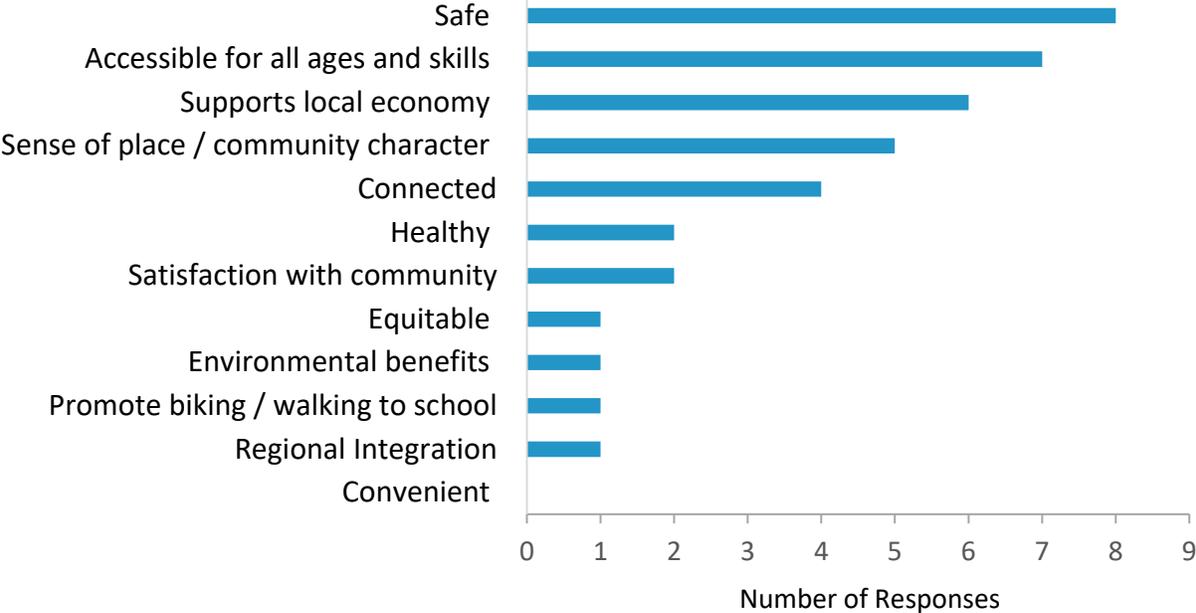
Steering Committee Meeting #1:

January 10, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Steering Committee (SC) for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is comprised of residents, business owners, and public officials. They participated in a preliminary visioning activity to develop initial goals for the Plan. The twelve SC attendees selected three priorities for their vision for biking and walking in the Greater Nyack area and then identified tools for achieving these goals. The visioning activity results are represented in the charts below.

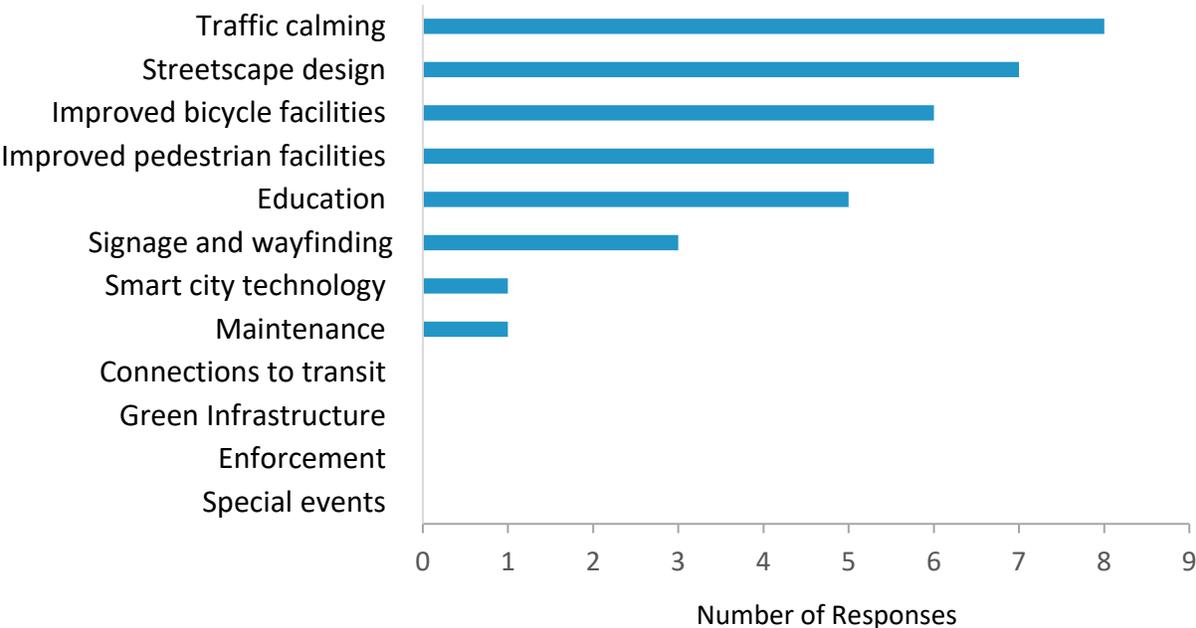
The SC identified safety, accessibility for all ages, and development of local economy as their three top priorities for biking and walking in Greater Nyack. Establishing connections to key destinations and developing a sense of place and community character are also a high priority for the SC. Members commented that the Plan should encourage healthy habits by providing residents a way to get around without cars and should promote biking and walking to schools. When asked how to achieve these goals, SC members identified traffic calming, streetscape design, improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and education as the most efficient tools for successfully achieving an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian environment.

What’s your vision for biking and walking for the Greater Nyack Area? (Select three)





How do we achieve that vision? (Select three.)



In addition to their participation in the visioning activity, the SC members offered the following comments:

- The SC suggested several ideas for pop-up events, including the farmers market, Nyack Beach State Park, Nyack Lunch & Learn with high school students, and during schoolwide events like spring concerts. Another individual mentioned that parent-teacher association meetings are not always well attended. The pop-up event could be tied to a bike/walk to school day, but that date usually occurs in the fall. Another member suggested talking to parents at school pick-up times.
- North Broadway and Birchwood Avenue was cited as a potential location for a demonstration project. Mountainview and Lake Road in Valley Cottage was also mentioned as a potential location. Schools and near commuter bus stops are also good locations. If need be, these demonstration projects can be moved toward the end of the project timeline for better weather.
- The SC raised concerns about safety of students getting to school by walking and biking. Sidewalks are a major concern, and many wished area children could be more autonomous and less dependent on parents dropping them off. The SC noted that Valley Cottage has three of the five district schools.
- The SC explained that there is a perceived adversarial relationship between people biking through for recreation and local users. It’s important to note this distinction when thinking about the local economy. South Nyack in particular is looking to manage recreational cycling, so education is an important topic.

GREATER NYACK BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

- Traffic calming and driver education came up as ways to help make Nyack and the adjacent communities safer. Roundabouts were suggested as one potential option.
- Members of the committee said they were interested in helping spread the word about the project. They noted several local organizations and schools they could reach out to.
- The SC emphasized the need for consistent bicycle policies across the jurisdictions.
- The SC expressed optimism that bicycle commuting could become more common with the opening of the shared use path.
- The SC discussed the need to make it easier to travel east-west, especially the need to connect Nyack to Palisades Center. Route 59 to the shopping mall is a state road, but the SC does not want to shy away from improving the connection for pedestrians and bicyclists. This link is referenced in the Comprehensive Plan, and the Project Team should build on that or consider parallel roads for safer options, such as Upper Depew Avenue/West Street/Old Route 59. In addition to being safer, this option would offer better connections for Central Nyack residents to Nyack, and it would not require NYSDOT approval. A SC member noted, however, that Clarkstown has shown resistance to making safety improvements on this corridor so it's important to look into the Clarkstown Master Planning process.
- In general, east-west connectivity is a major issue because of the topography and lack of facilities. E-bikes may be a way to address the topography. One SC member said the towns feel "segregated" due to poor design and facilities.
- One SC member noted that sidewalk maintenance is an issue. Residents are required to maintain the sidewalk, so they are curious if a sidewalk improvement district could address this challenge. Another SC member noted that sidewalks are too narrow or in some cases missing (e.g., Gedney Street).
- Several SC members were interested in exploring smart city technologies, including bike share and smart parking.

Attendees:

Steering Committee

- Beth Davidson – Nyack Board of Education
- Marcy Denker – Nyack Sustainability Coordinator
- Mike Hays – Rockland Bicycling Club
- Paul Kadin – Piermont Resident
- Alain Leinbach – Trustee, South Nyack
- Meg Mayo – Visit Nyack Director
- Melody Patrick – Nyack Recreation Director
- Jim Politi – Village Administrator
- Matt Poole – 9W Cycles Owner
- Kieran Quinn – Former Nyack Mayor
- Jeff Scherr – Nyack Landscape Architect
- Cylynda Whitted – South Nyack Resident

GREATER NYACK BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN



Project Team

- Michael Ahillen – FHI
- Chris Henry – FHI
- Marcy Miller – FHI
- Mary Miltimore – FHI
- Dave Zornow – Greater Nyack Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan